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25. — *European Acquaintance: being Sketches of People in Europe.*

By J. W. DE FOREST, Author of "Oriental Acquaintance," &c.
New York: Harper and Brothers. 1858. 12mo. pp. 276.

THIS volume is without pretension, yet it cannot fail of the favoring suffrages of a very numerous public. The author was in quest of health, and the greater part of his book is devoted to his experiences at the hydropathic establishments of Graefenberg and Divonne. At the former place we have a full-length portrait of Priessnitz, a minute description of his colony of invalids, and a detailed account of his mode of treatment. Priessnitz was evidently a man of native genius, an honest enthusiast, and a prudent and successful practitioner. He was not the ultraist in hydropathy which many of his disciples are, and varied his treatment according to the demands of individual cases, from an almost unintermitted deluge to "a slight rubbing with dampened towels," while his close attention to exercise and diet showed how far he was from regarding water as a panacea. Our author incidentally describes several other eccentric Silesian hospitals, one for the "Curd Cure," a system by which patients are fed on curdled milk, and "put asoak in it"; another for the "Straw Cure," where the sick are drenched with straw tea, and packed in straw beds; and yet another for the "Wine Cure," in which inebriation takes its daily place, with forced perspiration and alternate fastings and surfeits, as a remedial agent. There is probably no so luculent proof and test of the native strength of the human constitution, as its survivance and self-recuperative power under the onslaughts of the bolder forms of quackery. In addition to these hospital-sketches, the volume before us contains notices of a few distinguished persons, some piquant anecdotes, and two or three poems of unequal merit, the first of which, "The Island City," (Venice,) gives us a higher idea of the author's competency to deal with the profounder themes of thought and sentiment, than is verified by aught that succeeds it, whether in verse or prose.

26. — *The Poetical Works of SIR WALTER SCOTT. With a Memoir of the Author.* In 9 vols. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1857. 16mo.

THESE volumes are a continuation of the series of British Poets, and are edited with the skill, thoroughness, and fidelity to which we have